

(From *The Evening Herald*, Dublin, Wednesday, January 6, 1915)

“BILLY SUNDAY”

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How He Tried to Convert Philadelphia

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TABERNACLE HUSTLING

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A Big Dose of Slang for the Forces of Evil

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The Rev. Billy Sunday, America’s greatest “soul-saver,” far eclipsing in statistical results all records of Moody and Sankey, and similar evangelistic pioneers, is now arranging to capture Philadelphia, says the New York correspondent of the “Daily Telegraph.”

CONGREGATION OF 20,000

To this end enthusiastic friends, who helped to make Sunday’s journey across the continent one big triumphal progress, built a great tabernacle capable of holding 20,000 people. Three times on the Sabbath, Sunday, who has been one of the greatest baseball players of his time, addressed crowded meetings, using his sporting slang and baseball tactics, coupled with real evangelical power.

This is the way Billy made his appearance in Philadelphia.

GEMS FROM HIS ADDRESS

He entered the tabernacle at great speed, leaped at a bound to the top of the table on the stage, smacked his hands together with a report like a rifle shot and raised his voice to a shriek, crying, “Come on, you forces of evil in Philadelphia, that have made the Church a doormat to wipe your dirty feet upon, come on, you triple extract of infamy, come on, you assassins of character, come on, you defamers of God and enemies of His Church; come on, you bull-necked, beetle-

browed, hog-jowled, peanut-brained, weasel-eyed, four flushers of false alarms and excess baggage!

THE CHALLENGE

“In the name of Almighty God, I challenge, and defy you. I’m here for many weeks; come on, and I’ll deliver the goods express prepaid.”

Then Billy Sunday’s voice died away to a whisper, his breath came in gasps, sweat streamed down from his face, he let himself down from the table-top, caught up a pitcher of water, and drained the glass at a gulp.

There followed one of Sunday’s shrapnel-like harangues which will be continued daily until, to use the Evangelist’s words, “Philadelphia will turn over in its sleep.”

A SPIRITUAL AWAKENER

Sunday is a specialist in all cases of spiritual lethurgy [*sic*], and he invaded Philadelphia, not of his own accord, but at the suggestion of hundreds of local congregations, which decided that nothing could save the city except a big dose of Billy Sunday.

Business men got together under Mr. Joseph Steele as chairman of the general committee of the evangelistic campaign, and the cost was figured at about £10,000. The expenses were underwritten easily by the sale of dollar shares.